

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. The author has admitted on Fox news that it is strictly anti-Kerry - no counterbalancing material at all. In spite of this it is not being labeled as political advertising as it should be. And the FCC is doing nothing about it!!

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get managed news consistent with the owner's own beliefs rather than balanced presentations that allow citizens to form their own opinions. We need more substantive and balanced news about issues that matter. It is important that the FCC promote a sense of fairness by broadcasters who use public airwaves for free because of the decreasing public trust in all forms of news by both the right and the left. The FCC needs to do its job or news media will be replaced by blogs and chaos.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

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